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NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1939.

NEWHAVEN,

4th October, 1940.

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended December 31st 1939

To the Members of the
Newhaven Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December, 31st 1939.

During the year 1939 the general health of the District was good and there was freedom from any serious infectious disease.

Excluding Tuberculosis of which 8 cases were notified, there were 18 cases of Infectious Disease during the year, of which 7 were Pneumonia.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Disease.

The Crude Death Rate was 12.6 as compared with 11.89 in 1938 The comparability factor of .92 gives an adjusted death rate of 11.5

The Senile Mortality was 58 as compared with 60.7 in 1938. The chief causes of death were as follows:
Heart Disease 25, Cancer 12, Cerebral Haemorrhage 8, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Diabetes 3, Bronchitis 3 and Influenza 3.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .56 as compared with .56 in 1938.

The Birth Rate was 15.3 as compared with 15 in 1938. There were 3 illegitimate births. There were 2 deaths of Infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality of 18.3, as compared with nil in 1938.

Eighteen cases of Infectious Disease were treated at the Isolation Hospital, all of which made a good recovery.

Social Conditions of the District.

The chief Industries in the District are as follows:

Southern Railway Company
Dock and Harbour Works
Building Trade.
Valentine Pen Factory.

A good many workers are also employed at the Alpha Cement Works situated a short distance outside the District.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council for their unfailing courtesy, and to the Officials for the ready aid extended to me in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RODIE PARKHURST.

Newhaven,
4th October, 1940.

1.

General Statistics.

Area ..... 1766 Acres
Population Census 1931 7383
" Estimated..... 7112
Number of Inhabited Houses 2070
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers 2138
Rateable Value £46,477
Sum produced by a penny rate £181 9 7

2.

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Births - Legitimate M - 45 F - 61 } Total 109
Illegitimate M - 0 F - 3 }

Still Births M - 1 F - 3 Total 4. All legitimate
= 36.7 per 1,000 Births

Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births - 18.3
Death rate per 1,000 of the Population 12.6. Adjusted rate 11.5
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth - Nil.
Deaths from Zymotic disease - Nil.

3.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1939.

During the year 1939, there were 18 cases of notifiable disease, excluding Tuberculosis, as against 20 in 1938. They were as follows: Pneumonia 7, Scarlet Fever 5, Diphtheria 3, Puerperal Pyrexia 1, Poliomyelitis 1, and Erysipelas 1.

Table of Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during the year 1939, with age periods.

Ages Years	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ery-sipelas	Anterior Poliomyelitis
0-1						
1-5	1		2			
5-15	1	5				
15-25			2	1		1
25-35						
35-45	1					
45-55						
55-65			3			
65-					1	
Totals	3	5	7	1	1	1

Table of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year 1939 and deaths therefrom

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5			2	1				
15		2				2		
25	1				1			
35		1			1			
45								
55								
65 & over								
Totals	1	3	3	1	2	2	-	-

Causes of Sickness.

There were no particular causes of sickness during the year 1939, and the District was not attacked by anything in the nature of an epidemic. The total number of infectious diseases notified was 18 as compared with 20 in 1938. Of these, 7 were Pneumonia; there were five cases of Scarlet Fever and three of Diphtheria. The Crude Death Rate was 12.6 as compared with 11.89 in 1938 and the adjusted Death Rate was 11.5 compared with 10.9 in 1938. The Senile Mortality was 58 compared with 60.7 in 1938. The Infantile Mortality was 18.3 as compared with nil in 1938. The Birth Rate was 15.3 compared with 15 in 1938.

The chief causes of death were as follows:

Heart Disease 25, Cerebral Haemorrhage 8, Cancer 12, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Diabetes 3, Bronchitis 3 and Influenza 3.

5. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions Available for the District.

The Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association supply two Queens Nurses and one Health Visitor. One Queen's Nurse carries out the general nursing of the Urban District and part of the Rural District and is also Midwife for such part of the Rural District. The other Queens Nurse is Midwife for the Town and gives relief duty to the other Nurses when needed. The Health Visitor carries out the health visiting in the Urban District and parts of the Rural District. The Nursing is provided by the Local Authority, assisted by a grant from the County Council. There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; weekly meetings are held where mothers can attend with their infants for instruction in their upbringing. This centre is carried on by the Health Visitor assisted by the Town Midwife.

Clinics. The Health Visitor attends the School Clinic and also the Dental and Eye Clinic, held at the Schools, under the arrangements made by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities. A Motor Ambulance is provided by the Council for the conveyance of Infectious Diseases to the Isolation Hospital, and an up-to-date Motor Ambulance is provided by the Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases. This ambulance is available for use in the Urban District and the surrounding Districts.

Hospitals. There is no hospital in the district for the treatment of Tuberculosis. The Isolation Hospital is provided for the reception of cases of infectious disease occurring in the town and Port; this Hospital receives a grant from the County Council under the condition that cases should be received from certain outlying districts should their own hospitals be full.

The Smallpox Hospital is the East Sussex Western Hospital, situated at Chailey, to which the Newhaven Urban District Council contributes a subsidy.

There is no Maternity or Children's Hospital in the District, nor any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children.

Isolation Hospital.

This Hospital is in a satisfactory condition. During the year 1939 eighteen cases were under treatment there of which I append a table. They all made a satisfactory recovery.

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Suspected Diphtheria	Impetigo	Bacillus Colic
Newhaven	5	3		1	
Seaford	1	3	2		
Lewes					1
Hailsham Rural	1	1			

6. Laboratory Work.

No bacteriological or pathological examinations are undertaken locally, but arrangements are in force with Dr.Shera East Sussex County Mental Hospital, Hellingly, Sussex, for the examination of all specimens, the charge for which is borne by the Newhaven Urban District Council. All Medical Practitioners in the District are supplied with Diphtheria Antitoxin free of cost.

7. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

List of Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Parts i,ii,iii.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 -
Parts iv, vi, ix and x.
Sections 15-22 inclusive and 28, and 31,32 and 33, of Part 2, and Section 81 of Part 7.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Water Supply.

The District has two sources of Water Supply
1. From the Newhaven & Seaford Water Co. which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom.
2. From the Southern Railway Company's well at Denton.
Both these water supplies are of good quality and sufficient in quantity. They have been analysed on several occasions and found satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the District are provided with water closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions:
Premises with Cesspools:

West Pier	3
Cemetery	1
Court Farm Cottages	3
Harbour Heights Estate	46
Added Area	185

Premises with Earth Closets

Meeching Court Farm	6
New Road	17
West Pier.....	24
Golf House	1
Fort Glacis	3
Bungalow, Church Hill	1
East Side Beach Huts	42
Denton Village	32

Scavenging.

The method of disposal of house refuse now in force is that suggested by the Ministry of Health, whereby refuse is buried daily under the soil. This system works very satisfactorily.

8. Sanitary Inspection of the District and the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1939

The following is the number of houses visited by the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1939:

In connection with Infectious Disease.....	12
Various	14
	26

Abstract from the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out a regular inspection of the District and I subjoin extract from his Report. The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 1939, he has made 730 visits in connection with his work. In respect of these visits, 60 informal and 19 formal notices were served. Sixty-four complaints were received during the year, all of which were dealt with and the conditions remedied. I append a table of the number and nature of the inspections carried out during the year 1939:

Dwelling House Inspections	287
Visits in connection with nuisances	44
Common Lodging House Inspections	9
Slaughter House Visits	192
Visits in connection with Offensive Trade	2
Bakehouse inspections	12
Cowshed inspections	14
Factory and Workshop Inspections	9
Rat Investigations	62
Visits in connection with vermin and disinfestation.	17
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease and disinfection.	10
Food Premises Inspections	46
Public Conveniences inspections	7
Miscellaneous visits	19
	730

Summary of Work Executed After Service of Notice.

Water Closets repaired	32
Cesspools repaired	3
Drains cleared or repaired	5
Accumulation of Refuse removed	1
Cooking Ranges repaired	11
Rooms of Dwelling Houses cleansed	37
Dustbins provided	5
Yards paved	8
Floors repaired	14
Windows repaired	21
Dampness remedied	16
Food Stores provided	14
Staircases repaired	13
Coppers repaired	5
Sinks provided	1
Roofs repaired	18
	204

Shops and Offices.

All shops and offices are regularly inspected and their condition found to be satisfactory.

Camping Sites.

(1) Number of Sites used in the area 2
(2) Number in respect of which licenses have been issued 2
(3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time 100

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of Houses infested - Council Houses 5
Other houses 1
All these houses were disinfested
(2) Method employed - Cimex Cubes and Pyagra.
(3) All furniture and effects of infested premises were disinfested.
(4) All tenants supervised and instructed by Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The Sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory and the water supply is good and adequate. There is a need for the provision of a new school building in the district, as, since the admission of scholars from Peacehaven, it has been necessary in the Boys' School to hold two classes in one room which is not a satisfactory condition of affairs.

All cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever are removed to the Isolation Hospital and contacts excluded for the prescribed periods. Notices of non-notifiable diseases are sent to the Medical Officer of Health by the head teachers so that any steps which may be considered advisable may be taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations

1. Lodging Houses. There is only one Lodging House in the District. This is licensed for the reception of 43 people. A regular inspection of the premises is carried out.

2. Dairies and Cowsheds. There are 3 dairy farms in the district and 20 registered Retailers and 2 Wholesale Traders for the sale of milk.

Regular inspections of the premises are carried out, and their general condition has been found satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 14 visits to the cowsheds and given five informal notices.

3. Slaughterhouses. There are 3 slaughterhouses in the District all of which are registered.

Their general condition is clean but their structural condition cannot be considered satisfactory. The District is in need of a Public Abattoir which would facilitate the inspection of meat at the time of slaughtering. During the year 1939 about 356 animals were slaughtered. I append a list of carcases inspected and condemned:

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	52	67	Nil	86	151
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	5	-	-	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.9%	7.45%	-	-	4.63%

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	3	2	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	24	-	-	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	21.1%	39.8%	-	-	4.63%

Food.

A. Milk Supply. The premises from which and the conditions under which milk is retailed in the District receive special attention from the Authority. Eight samples for bacterial examination were taken, four of which were unsatisfactory.

B. Other Foods. All premises where food is prepared for sale are regularly inspected and their condition has been found satisfactory. There are six bakehouses in the district, none of which is underground.

During the year 1939, the following articles of food were condemned and destroyed:

Diseased Meat.

Bovines.

2	Livers	Distomatosis
1	"	Angioma
4	"	Tuberculosis
1	"	Abcesses
10	Mesenteries	Tuberculosis
1 pair	Lungs	Pneumonia
27 pairs	"	Tuberculosis
13	Heads & Tongues	Tuberculosis
1	Tongue	Actinomycosis
5	Entire carcases and organs	Tuberculosis
6	Quarters	Tuberculosis

Swine.

2	Livers	Hepatitis
2	"	Tuberculosis
1	"	Febrile
1 pair	Lungs	Pneumonia
2 pairs	"	Tuberculosis
2	Hearts	Pericarditis
5	Heads & Tongues	Tuberculosis
1	Entire carcase & organs	Emaciation.

The Public Health officers of the Council consist of a Medical Officer of Health, part time, and a Sanitary Inspector, full time. The staff of the Isolation Hospital comprises a Matron, an Assistant Nurse, a Probationer Nurse, a Cook and a Caretaker. On the 1st October, 1939, the Hospital was taken over by the Lewes, Newhaven & Seaford Joint Hospital Board. The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent.

Sanitary Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - Rodie Parkhurst, M.B.,C.M.Edin.

Sanitary Inspector - John Ernest Gilbert, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B. and Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (Up till 12th August, 1939.)

Reginald Staples, Cert.R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. and Qualified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (From 1st October, 1939)

Disinfection.

Premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred are disinfected with formalin. In cases of Cancer and Tuberculosis disinfection is generally carried out on the death or removal of the patient. Infected beddings and clothing are treated in the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year 1939.

I append a table of general Statistics for the past ten years.

Year	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
Population estimated to middle of year	7112	7062	6989	7060	6989	6936	6481	6494	6397	6390
Birth rate per 1,000 of the population	15.3	15	15.1	12.6	13.7	14.7	1415	13.3	1515	16.9
Death rate of infants under 1 yr per 1,000 Births	18.3	Nil	66	22.5	10 4	20	43.5	35	57.5	55.5
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population	12.6	1189	10.3	11.7	12.4	11.5	15	10.6	16.5	13
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 of the population	11.5	10.9	9.47	1076						
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000	0	0.14	0.14	0.28	0.14	0	0	0.15	0	0.15
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000	.56	.56	.4	.4	.7	.43	.77	.44	1,5	1.1
Death rate from other Respiratory Diseases per 1000	1	.4	.7	.8	1.6	1.4	1.6	.8	1.5	2.7
Senile Mortality Deaths at 65 & over as percentage of total deaths	58	60.7	52.8	61.7	48.0	45.0	62.8	60.0	50.0	43.4

Factories & Workshops.

The Medical Officer of Health is requested to report on the condition of Factories and Workshops under the Factory Act, in so far as it concerns his department, and forward a copy to the Secretary of State.

The Factories and Workshops in the District have been regularly inspected and found to be generally in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

RODIE PARKHURST,

Medical Officer of Health.

4th October, 1940.